

STRANGER THINGS

#101

THE VANISHING OF WILL BYERS

On his way home from a friend's house, young Will sees something terrifying. Nearby, a sinister secret lurks in the depths of a government lab.

NOVEMBER 6TH, 1983

HAWKINS, INDIANA

EXT. HAWKINS LAB – NIGHT

HAWKINS NATIONAL LABORATORY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Lights flicker. We zoom in on a door at the end of the hallway. The door suddenly opens. A scientist runs out. An alarm is blaring. The scientist runs down the hallway, panting. He runs up to an elevator, pushing a button desperately. He looks down the hallway, still pushing the button, waiting for the elevator to arrive. The elevator dings. It slowly opens. The scientist walks in quickly, pushing a button rapidly before standing in the middle of the elevator, breathing heavily. He hears a low growling. He looks up. As the elevator doors closed, the scientist is lifted into the air, screaming.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Sprinklers are watering the lawn.

MIKE (O.S.): Something is coming. Something hungry for blood.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Mike, Will, Lucas, and Dustin sit at a table, playing D&D. Mike is the Dungeon Master.

MIKE (CONT'D): A shadow grows on the wall behind you, swallowing you in darkness. It's almost here.

WILL: What is it?

DUSTIN: What if it's the Demogorgon?

WILL: Oh, Jesus, we're so screwed if it's the Demogorgon.

LUCAS: It's not the Demogorgon.

Mike slams a figure onto the table.

MIKE: An army of troglodytes charge into the chamber!

DUSTIN: Troglodytes?

LUCAS: Told ya.

The boys chuckle. Mike looks disappointed, upset.

MIKE: (softly) Wait a minute. Did you hear that? That...that sound? Boom...boom... (yells) Boom!

Mike slams his hands down on the table, startling the others.

MIKE (CONT'D): That didn't come from the troglodytes. No, that...that came from something else.

Mike slams another figure onto the table.

MIKE (CONT'D): The Demogorgon!

The boys groan.

DUSTIN: We're in deep shit.

MIKE: Will, your action!

WILL: I don't know!

LUCAS: Fireball him!

WILL: I'd have to roll a 13 or higher!

DUSTIN: Too risky. Cast a protection spell.

LUCAS: Don't be a pussy. Fireball him!

DUSTIN: Cast Protection.

Mike slams the table.

MIKE: The Demogorgon is tired of your silly human bickering! It stomps towards you. Boom!

LUCAS: Fireball him!

MIKE: Another stomp, boom!

DUSTIN: Cast Protection.

MIKE: He roars in anger!

LUCAS: Fireball him!

DUSTIN: Cast Protection!

WILL: Fireball!

Will rolls the die. He rolls it too hard. It rolls off the table. Mike, Will, and Lucas jump up to look for it, crawling under the stairs and other tables. Dustin stays standing.

WILL (CONT'D): Oh, shit!

LUCAS: Where'd it go? Where is it?

WILL: I don't know!

DUSTIN: Is it a 13?

WILL: I don't know!

LUCAS: Where is it?

DUSTIN: Oh, my God!

KAREN (O.S.): Mike!

DUSTIN: Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

KAREN (O.S.): Mike!

LUCAS: Can you find it yet?

Karen opens the basement door.

WILL (O.S.): No, I can't find it!

KAREN: Mike!

Mike looks up from where he's looking under the stairs.

DUSTIN (O.S.): Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

MIKE: Mum, we're in the middle of a campaign!

KAREN: You mean the end? Fifteen after.

Karen taps her watch before leaving. Mike stands up and starts running up the stairs.

LUCAS (O.S.): Oh, my God! Freaking idiot!

WILL (O.S.): Why do we have to go?

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Karen stands at the counter, putting some leftovers into a dish. Mike walks into the room from the basement. Ted stands in the lounge room behind them, fiddling with the TV antennas.

MIKE: Mum, wait, just 20 more minutes!

KAREN: It's a school night, Michael. I just put Holly to bed. You can finish next weekend.

MIKE: But that'll ruin the flow!

KAREN: Michael-

MIKE: I'm serious, Mum. The campaign took two weeks to plan. How was I supposed to know it was gonna take 10 hours?

KAREN: You've been playing for 10 hours?

Mike turns around to Ted.

MIKE: Dad, don't you think that 20 more-

TED: I think you should listen to your mother.

The TV's static crackles. Ted hits it.

TED (CONT'D): Dang dumb piece of junk.

Mike looks between his parents, dumbfounded.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Will, Dustin, and Lucas continue searching for the die. Will finds it.

WILL: Oh, I got it! Does the seven count?

LUCAS: It was a seven? Did Mike see it?

Will shakes his head.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Then it doesn't count.

The boys all rush to put their coats on, grabbing their bags and heading up the stairs. Dustin pauses, opening a pizza box.

DUSTIN: Yo, hey, guys.

Lucas and Will pause on the stairs, looking at Dustin.

DUSTIN: Does anyone want this?

LUCAS and WILL (IN UNISON): No.

Lucas and Will run up the stairs.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – FIRST FLOOR LANDING – NIGHT

Dustin runs up the stairs.

NANCY (O.S.): Yeah. No, I don't think...

Dustin approaches Nancy's room. She's lying on her bed, talking on the phone.

NANCY (CONT'D): Yeah, he's cute.

Dustin waves to her.

NANCY (CONT'D): Barb, no, I don't think so. Barb, you're not-

DUSTIN: Hey, Nancy.

Nancy looks over at Dustin.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): There's a slice left if you want it. Sausage and pepperoni!

Nancy rolls her eyes.

NANCY: (to phone) Hold on.

Nancy sets the handset down and climbs out of bed, walking over to the door. Dustin grins as she approaches. Nancy gives a tight-lipped smile as she closes the door in Dustin's face.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – CARPORT – NIGHT

Dustin exits through the back door, heading towards his bike. Lucas and Will are already getting on their bikes.

DUSTIN: There's something wrong with your sister.

MIKE: What are you talking about?

DUSTIN: She's got a stick up her butt.

LUCAS: Yeah. It's because she's been dating that douchebag, Steve Harrington.

DUSTIN: Yeah, she's turning into a real jerk.

MIKE: She's always been a real jerk.

DUSTIN: Nuh-uh, she used to be cool.

Dustin and Lucas start to ride off.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Like that time she dressed up as an elf for our Elder tree campaign.

MIKE: Four years ago!

DUSTIN: Just saying.

LUCAS: Later.

Will holds back.

WILL: It was a seven.

Mike turns to look at him.

MIKE: Huh?

WILL: The roll, it was a seven. The Demogorgon, it got me. See you tomorrow.

Will rides off. Mike watches him go. The porch lights flicker. Mike looks at them in confusion, before he walks over to the switch and turns them off. He walks back to the back door.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Lucas, Dustin, and Will bike along a road.

LUCAS: Good night, ladies.

DUSTIN: Kiss your Mum 'night for me.

Lucas breaks off from Dustin and Will.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Race you back to my place? Winner gets a comic.

WILL: Any comic?

DUSTIN: Yeah.

Will starts biking faster, taking Dustin off guard.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Hey! Hey!

Dustin starts to bike faster to catch up.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I didn't say "go"!

Will bikes over a hill, Dustin not far behind him.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Get back here! I'm gonna kill you!

WILL: I'll take your X-Men 134!

Will rides past Dustin's mailbox. Dustin reaches it, slowly down to a stop.

DUSTIN: Son of a bitch.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Will bikes down an empty road. The camera pans slightly as he bikes through. He's biking past Hawkins Lab. As Will bikes along, not suspecting anything, the light on his bike goes out. When he looks down at it, it turns back on. Will looks up and sees a figure in the road. He gasps in shock,

turning and biking into the woods. He bikes down a high, his bike falling over and sending him tumbling. He gets to his knees, looking up at the road. The shadow of the figure can be vaguely seen. A growling can be heard. Will gasps and runs away, leaving his bike.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Will runs down the driveway. He runs up to the front door, opening it quickly and shutting it behind him.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Chester barks. He reaches up and locks the door, running towards Jonathan's room.

WILL: Mum? Jonathan? Mum?

Chester continues barking. Will runs down the hallway to check Joyce's room. When he finds no one, he turns around and runs back down the hallway into the lounge room. He lifts a blind and sticks his head under, looking out the window. The shadow of a figure can be seen. Screeching can be heard. Will's eyes widen in fear and he runs away from the window, running towards the phone. He picks the handheld up, quickly dialling 911 and shaking as the line rings.

WILL (CONT'D): Hello? Hello?

Static crackles over the phone. Screeching can be heard over the phone. Chester barks. Will slowly rounds the corner to look at the front door, whimpering. A shadow crosses over the glass in the door. The chain lock starts to open, moved by an unknown force. The chain falls from the lock. Will drops the phone and runs to the back door.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – PORCH – NIGHT

Will opens the porch door, running down the stairs and into the shed, closing the door behind him.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – SHED – NIGHT

Will runs straight to the rifle and pulls it off the wall. He empties a box of bullets onto the counter, fumbling to load them into the magazine. He jams the magazine into the rifle, moving the bolt, before he aims the rifle at the shed door. He's shaking. He's terrified. A growling can be heard. Behind him, we can see the Demogorgon moving. Will turns around, holding the gun to his chest as he looks at the Demogorgon. He looks terrified. The light bulb burns bright. It dims. Will and the Demogorgon are gone.

Fade to black.

MAIN TITLES.

CHAPTER ONE: THE VANISHING OF WILL BYERS.

INT. HOPPER'S TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

The TV is on, playing the news. The camera pans from a children's drawing on the wall, across the lounge room, and lands on Hopper. He lies asleep on the couch.

DONNA (ON TV): And that's it for News Centre this morning. Thanks for joining us. Let's hand off now to Liz at the news desk.

LIZ (ON TV): All right, thank you, Donna. Turning now to local news, we're getting reports of surges and power outages all across the county. Last night, hundreds of homes in East Hawkins were affected, leaving many residents in the dark. The cause of the outage is still unknown. We reached out to Roane County Water and Electric, and a spokesperson says that they are confident power will be restored to all remaining homes within the next several hours.

A dog in the background barks. Hopper wakes up with a snort. He sighs, checking the time on his watch. He groans. The watch beeps.

EXT. HOPPER'S TRAILER – BACK PORCH – DAY

Hopper walks out, lighting a cigarette. He shakes in the cold a little.

HOPPER: Mmm.

Hopper turns around and walks back inside.

INT. HOPPER'S TRAILER – BATHROOM – DAY

Hopper showers, a little too tall for the showerhead. He dries his hair, then walks over to the mirror and starts brushing his teeth. He smokes as he puts deodorant on. He opens a bottle of Tuinal and puts one in his mouth, downing it with a mouthful of beer.

INT. HOPPER'S TRAILER – BEDROOM – DAY

Hopper gets dressed, buttoning his shirt and pulling on his pants. He fastens his belt, gun in the holster. He fastens his 'Chief' badge onto his shirt, before putting a pen in his breast pocket. He grabs his hat and puts it on. He grabs his keys and heads out the door. The camera pans towards the TV, where the news is still playing.

LIZ (ON TV): In other news, you might want to stay home tonight or at least pack an umbrella. We turn to everybody's favourite morning weather guy, Charles.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

JOYCE (O.S.): Where the hell are they?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Jonathan is making breakfast on the stove.

JOYCE (CONT'D)(O.S.): Jonathan?

JONATHAN: Check the couch!

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Joyce is digging through the couch.

JOYCE: Ugh, I did.

Joyce finds her keys under a pillow.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Oh...got them.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Joyce walks into the kitchen, picking up her bag.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Okay, sweetie, I will see you tonight.

JONATHAN: Yeah, see you later.

JOYCE: Where's Will?

JONATHAN: Oh, I didn't get him up yet. He's probably still sleeping.

JOYCE: Jonathan, you have to make sure he's up!

JONATHAN: Mum, I'm making breakfast.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – HALLWAY – DAY

Joyce starts to walk down the hallway towards Will's room.

JOYCE: I told you this a thousand times.

Joyce claps as she approaches Will's room.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Will! Come on, honey. It's time to get up.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY

Joyce enters Will's room. He's not in there. She looks around, confused. She makes her way back out to the kitchen.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

JOYCE (CONT'D): He came home last night, right?

JONATHAN: He's not in his room?

JOYCE: Did he come home or not?

JONATHAN: I don't know.

JOYCE: You don't know?

JONATHAN: No. I got home late. I was working.

JOYCE: You were working?

JONATHAN: Eric asked if I could cover. I said yeah. I just thought we could use the extra cash.

JOYCE: Jonathan, we've talked about this.

JONATHAN: I know, I know.

JOYCE: You can't take shifts when I'm working.

JONATHAN: Mum, it's not a big deal. Look, he was at the Wheelers' all day. I'm sure he just stayed over.

JOYCE: I can't believe you.

Joyce walks over to the phone, picking it up.

JOYCE (CONT'D): I can't believe you sometimes.

Joyce dials a number.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

The Wheelers sit at the kitchen table eating breakfast. Mike pours syrup over his eggs. The phone rings.

NANCY: That's disgusting.

MIKE: You're disgusting!

Karen picks up the phone.

KAREN: Hello?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

JOYCE: Hi, Karen. It's Joyce.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Mike pours syrup over Nancy's eggs.

KAREN: Oh, Joyce, hi.

NANCY: What the hell, Mike?

TED: Hey!

KAREN: Quiet!

TED: Language.

NANCY: Are you kidding?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

JOYCE: Was that Will I heard back there?

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

KAREN: Will? No, no, no, it's just Mike.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

JOYCE: Will didn't spend the night?

KAREN (ON PHONE): No, he left here a little bit after 8:00.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

KAREN (CONT'D): Why? He's not home?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

JOYCE: Um, you know what? I think he just left early for...for school. Thank you so much. Bye.

KAREN (ON PHONE): Okay. Bye.

Joyce hangs up the phone. She looks at Jonathan. She looks worried.

EXT. HAWKINS SCHOOL – CAR PARK – DAY

Lucas, Mike, and Dustin bike up the drive to Hawkins Middle.

EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – BIKE RACK – DAY

The school bell rings. Lucas, Mike, and Dustin park their bikes.

MIKE: That's weird. I don't see him.

The boys start making their way towards the school entrance.

LUCAS: I'm telling you, his Mum's right. He probably just went to class early again.

DUSTIN: Yeah, he's always paranoid Gursky's gonna give him another pop quiz.

In the background, Troy and James step off a concrete block and walk towards the boys.

TROY: Step right up, ladies and gentlemen.

The boys reluctantly turn around and face them.

TROY (CONT'D): Step right up and get your tickets for the freak show. Who do you think would make more money in a freak show?

Troy steps towards Lucas and punches his shoulder.

TROY (CONT'D): Midnight...

Troy steps towards Mike and punches his shoulder.

TROY (CONT'D): Frogface...

Troy steps towards Dustin and punches his shoulder.

TROY (CONT'D): Or Toothless?

James puts his hand on his chin, pretending to think hard.

JAMES: (mimicking Dustin) I'd go with Toothless.

DUSTIN: I told you a million times, my teeth are coming in. It's called cleidocranial dysplasia.

JAMES: (mimicking Dustin) "I told you a million times".

TROY: Do the arm thing.

Dustin shakes his head.

JAMES: Do it, freak!

Dustin takes his bag and jacket off, dropping them on the ground. Looking at Troy and James, he brings his shoulders together. The pair groan, faking gagging.

TROY: God, it gets me every time.

Troy and James push past the boys.

LUCAS: Assholes.

MIKE: I think it's kinda cool. It's like you have superpowers or something. Like Mr. Fantastic.

Dustin picks up his bag and jacket. The boys start to walk into school.

DUSTIN: Yeah, except I can't fight evil with it.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY

Nancy walks down, heading towards her locker. Barb approaches her and starts walking alongside her.

BARB: So, did he call?

NANCY: Keep your voice down.

BARB: Did he?

NANCY: I told you, it's not like that.

Barb gives her a pointed look.

NANCY (CONT'D): Okay, I mean, yes, he likes me, but not like that.

They approach Nancy's locker. Nancy opens it and starts putting books away. Barb leans against a nearby locker.

NANCY (CONT'D): We just...made out a couple times.

BARB: "We just...made out a couple times". Nance, seriously, you're gonna be so cool now, it's ridiculous.

NANCY: No, I'm not.

BARB: You better still hang out with me, that's all I'm saying.

Nancy gives Barb a confused look.

BARB (CONT'D): If you become friends with Tommy H or Carol-

NANCY: Oh, that's gross! Okay, I'm telling you, it was a one-time...

Barb raises her eyebrows.

NANCY: Two-time thing.

Nancy puts a book away. She notices a folded up piece of paper at the bottom of her locker. She picks it up, unfolding it. The note reads: 'Meet Me. Bathroom – Steve'.

BARB: You were saying?

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – DAY

Steve pushes Nancy against a wall, the pair making out. Steve starts kissing her neck.

NANCY: Steve...

STEVE: Mmm-hmm?

NANCY: I have to go.

STEVE: In a minute.

The bell rings. Nancy checks her watch.

NANCY: Steve. I really, like...seriously, have to go.

Nancy reaches down to grab her bag. Steve grabs it instead and walks away slightly, leaning against the wall.

STEVE: Wait, wait, wait. Let's...come on, let's do something tonight, yeah?

Nancy reaches down and picks her books up from the floor.

NANCY: Uh...no, I can't. I have to study for Kaminsky's test.

STEVE: Oh, come on. What's your GPA again? 3.999...

Nancy reaches for her bag. Steve moves it out of her reach.

NANCY: Kaminsky's tests are impossible.

STEVE: Well, then, just let me help.

NANCY: You failed chem.

STEVE: C-minus.

NANCY: Well, in that case...

Steve holds out Nancy's bag.

STEVE: So I'll be over around, say, like, 8:00?

Nancy puts her bag over her shoulder.

NANCY: Are you crazy? My Mum would not-

STEVE: I'll climb through your window. She won't even know I'm there. I'm stealthy, like a ninja.

NANCY: You are crazy.

Nancy moves to exit the bathroom. Steve grabs her arm and stops her.

STEVE: Wait, wait, wait. Just...okay, forget about that. We can just...we can just, like, chill in my car. We can find a nice quiet place to park, and...

NANCY: Steve...I have to study. I'm not kidding.

STEVE: Well, why do you think I want it to be nice and quiet?

Nancy smiles.

NANCY: You're an idiot, Steve Harrington.

Nancy moves to leave the bathroom. She stops short of the door, turning around to look at Steve.

NANCY (CONT'D): Meet me at Dearborn and Maple at 8:00. To study.

Nancy leaves the bathroom. The bell rings. Steve grabs his bag off the floor.

EXT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION – DAY

Hopper pulls up outside.

INT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION – FOYER – DAY

Hopper walks in, a cigarette in his mouth. He walks past the reception window.

FLORENCE: Good of you to show.

INT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION – JOINT OFFICE AREA – DAY

Hopper walks into the joint office area.

HOPPER: (slurring) Oh, hey, morning, Flo. Morning, everybody.

POWELL: Hey, Chief.

CALLAHAN: Damn! You look like hell, Chief.

HOPPER: Oh, yeah?

CALLAHAN: Yeah.

HOPPER: Well, I looked better than your wife when I left her this morning.

The officers laugh. Hopper pours himself a cup of coffee. Florence walks up to him. She takes the cigarette out of his mouth and puts it out in Callahan's ashtray.

FLORENCE: While you were drinking or sleeping, or whatever it is you deemed so necessary on Monday morning, Phil Larson called. Said some kids are stealing the gnomes out of his garden again.

HOPPER: Oh, those garden gnomes again. Well, I'll tell you what, I'm gonna get right to that.

Hopper grabs a donut and puts it in his mouth. He moves a card from one side of Powell's hand to the other.

FLORENCE: On a more pressing matter, Joyce Byers can't find her son this morning.

HOPPER: (muffled) Mmm. Okay, I'm gonna get on that.

Hopper takes a bite of the donut. He starts to walk towards his office. Florence follows him.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Just give me a minute.

FLORENCE: Joyce is very upset.

HOPPER: Well, Flo, Flo, we've discussed this. Mornings are for coffee and contemplation.

FLORENCE: Chief, she's already in your-

HOPPER: Coffee and contemplation, Flo!

Hopper rounds the corner towards his office.

INT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION – HOPPER'S OFFICE – DAY

Hopper pauses in the doorway. Joyce stands up, turning around.

INT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION – HOPPER'S OFFICE – DAY

Hopper writes up a missing persons report on a typewriter. He sits in his chair. Joyce stands on the other side of his desk.

JOYCE: I have been waiting here over an hour, Hopper.

Hopper sighs deeply.

HOPPER: And I apologise again.

JOYCE: I'm going out of my mind!

HOPPER: Look, boy his age, he's probably just playing hookie, okay?

JOYCE: No, not my Will. He's not like that. He wouldn't do that.

HOPPER: Well, you never know. I mean, my Mum thought I was on the debate team, when really I was just screwing Chrissy Carpenter in the back of my dad's Oldsmobile, so...

JOYCE: Look, he's not like you, Hopper. He's not like me. He's not like...most. He has a couple of friends, but, you know, the kids, they're mean. They make fun of him. They call him names. They laugh at him, his clothes-

HOPPER: His clothes? What's wrong with his clothes?

JOYCE: I don't know. Does that matter?

HOPPER: Maybe.

JOYCE: Look, he's...he's a sensitive kid. Lonnie...Lonnie used to say he was queer. (softly) Called him a fag.

HOPPER: Is he?

JOYCE: He's missing is what he is.

HOPPER: When was the last time you heard from Lonnie?

Joyce scoffs, sitting down.

JOYCE: Uh, last I heard, he was in Indianapolis. That was about a year ago. But he has nothing to do with this.

HOPPER: Why don't you give me his number?

JOYCE: You know, Hopper, he has nothing to do with this. Trust me.

HOPPER: Joyce, 99 out of 100 times, kid goes missing, the kid is with a parent or relative.

JOYCE: What about the other time?

HOPPER: What?

JOYCE: You said, "99 out of 100". What about the other time, the one?

HOPPER: Joyce.

JOYCE: The one!

HOPPER: Joyce, this is Hawkins, okay? You wanna know the worst thing that's ever happened here in the four years I've been working here? Do you wanna know the worst thing? It was when an owl attacked Eleanor Gillespie's head because it thought that her hair was a nest.

JOYCE: Okay, fine. I will call Lonnie. He will talk to me before he talks to-

HOPPER: What, a pig?

JOYCE: A cop!

Joyce leans forward.

JOYCE (CONT'D): (voice breaking) Just find my son, Hop. Find him!

EXT. HAWKINS LAB – DAY

A trio of cars pull up. Agents in suits get out. They hold briefcases. They approach Brenner, who stands a few feet away from them.

AGENT: Dr. Brenner.

The men shake hands.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY

A scientist leads Brenner and the agents down a hallway.

Scientist: This way, gentlemen. The entire east wing will be evacuated within the hour. We've sealed off this area following quarantine protocol.

A soldier unzips a zip door. Brenner walks through, followed by the agents.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – ROOM – DAY

The men suit up in white hazmat suits. They grab guns from a box next to the door, cocking them.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – ELEVATOR – DAY

The men stand in an elevator as it descends. The elevator thuds. The doors slowly open.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY

Slowly, they start to make their way into the hallway. It is pitch black, save for their flashlights and a light that blinks on and off at the end of the hallway. They round the corner. A door is at the end of the hallway. On the walls are blobs of black webs and goop. The webs squelch, appearing as if they are breathing.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – GATE OBSERVATION ROOM – DAY

The men slowly make their way through the door. A low growling can be heard. They approach a wall. A mass of black vines has taken up residence on the wall. A dim red membrane rests in the middle, covered in black webs.

AGENT: This is where it came from?

BRENNER: Yes.

AGENT: And the girl?

BRENNER: She can't have gone far.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

A pair of small feet walk into frame. They stop. The camera pans up, revealing a hospital gown. It has a tear at the bottom. The camera continues to pan up. The feet and hospital gown belong to a young

girl. Her head is shaved. She watches a man exit a building with a rubbish bag. He puts the rubbish bag in a bin before heading back inside.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – STORAGE ROOM – DAY

The back door slowly opens. Music plays faintly in the background. Eleven quietly enters, walking towards the doorway. She rounds the corner, seeing the restaurant part of Benny's Burgers. There are a few customers inside. Benny takes a plate of food over to Earl and Henry.

BENNY: All right, and one more.

EARL: Hey, Ben. What do you think about that, uh...

BENNY: Hey, I don't know. I don't know.

Eleven moves off into the kitchen.

EARL (O.S.): I don't know, 37 points per game average-

BENNY (O.S.): 37 now, but...

EARL (O.S.): Mr. Basket.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – KITCHEN – DAY

Eleven enters the kitchen, looking around. She catches sight of a small basket of fries sitting on the back counter. She slowly approaches it. She grabs a fry, looking around before taking a bite. She looks up through the kitchen window, seeing Benny talking with Earl, before she grabs a handful of fries and shoves them in her mouth. Benny turns around, eyes briefly passing the kitchen. He does a small double take, spotting the hunched over figure of Eleven eating the fries.

BENNY: Hey!

Eleven looks up.

BENNY (CONT'D): Come here!

Eleven grabs the basket and starts to run out of the kitchen. Benny runs to stop her.

BENNY (CONT'D): Hey, come here!

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – STORAGE ROOM – DAY

Eleven runs for the back door. Benny is close behind her. Eleven reaches the door, close to freedom, when Benny grabs her by the shoulders, making her drop the basket. He turns her to face him, angry.

BENNY (CONT'D): You think you can steal from me, boy?

Benny's expression softens slightly. Eleven looks scared. She's breathing heavily.

BENNY (CONT'D): What in the hell?

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

The bell rings. Students start packing up their things and leaving the classroom. Mr. Clarke tries to tell students their homework. They don't stop to listen.

MR. CLARKE: Remember, finish chapter 12 and answer 12.3 on the difference between an experiment and other forms of science investigation. This will be on the test, which will cover chapters 10 through 12.

Mr. Clarke watches as his students leave through the door.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D): It will be multiple choice with an essay section.

Mr. Clarke trails off. He turns his head. Mike, Lucas, and Dustin are standing at his desk.

MIKE: So, did it come?

MR. CLARKE: Sorry, boys. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but...it came.

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – AV ROOM – DAY

Mike opens the door and rushes in, followed by Dustin and Lucas. Mike sits down at the table. Mr. Clarke walks in after the boys.

MR. CLARKE: The Heathkit ham shack.

Mike grabs the headphones and puts them on.

MIKE: Whoa.

MR. CLARKE: Ain't she a beaut?

Dustin reaches forward and starts turning a dial.

DUSTIN: I bet you can talk to New York on this thing.

MR. CLARKE: Think bigger.

LUCAS: California?

MR. CLARKE: Bigger.

MIKE: Australia?

Mr. Clarke nods. The boys grin.

LUCAS: Oh, man! When Will sees this, he's totally gonna blow his shit.

MR. CLARKE: Lucas!

LUCAS: Sorry.

Lucas tunes the radio. Mike presses the button on the microphone.

MIKE: (in an Australian accent) Hello, this is Mike Wheeler, president of Hawkins Middle AV Club.

DUSTIN grabs the headphones off Mike and puts them on himself.

LUCAS: What are you doing?

Dustin presses the button on the microphone.

DUSTIN: (in an Australian accent) Hello, this is Dustin, and this is the secretary and treasurer of Hawkins Middle AV Club. Do you eat kangaroos for breakfast?

Lucas reaches to grab the headphones off Dustin. The Hawkins Middle principal knocks on the door, making the boys and Mr. Clarke look over. Hopper stands behind the principal.

Hawkins Middle Principal: Sorry to interrupt, but, uh, may I borrow Michael, Lucas and Dustin?

INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE – DAY

Mike, Lucas, and Dustin sit on a couch, talking over one another. Hopper and Callahan sit opposite them. They look done with the boys already.

HOPPER: Okay, okay, okay. One at a time, all right. You.

Mike nods.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You said he takes what?

MIKE: Mirkwood.

HOPPER: Mirkwood?

MIKE: Yeah.

HOPPER: (to Callahan) Have you ever heard of Mirkwood?

CALLAHAN: I have not. That sounds made up to me.

LUCAS: No, it's from 'Lord of the Rings'.

DUSTIN: Well, 'The Hobbit'.

LUCAS: It doesn't matter.

DUSTIN: He asked!

LUCAS: (mocking) "He asked!"

MIKE: Shut up, guys!

HOPPER: Hey, hey, hey! What'd I just say? One at a damn time. You.

MIKE: Mirkwood, it's a real road. It's just the name that's made up. It's where Cornwallis and Kerley meet.

HOPPER: (to Callahan) Yeah, all right, I think I know that-

MIKE: We can show you, if you want.

HOPPER: (to Mike) I said that I know it!

MIKE: We can help look.

DUSTIN: Yeah.

HOPPER: No. No. After school, you are all to go home. Immediately. That means no biking around looking for your friend, no investigating, no nonsense. This isn't some 'Lord of the Rings' book.

DUSTIN: 'The Hobbit'.

Lucas reaches over Mike and hits Dustin.

LUCAS: Shut up!

Dustin reaches over Mike to fight with Lucas.

DUSTIN: Hey!

MIKE: Stop it!

HOPPER: (softly) Do I make myself clear?

The boys stop and look at Hopper. He stands up. He towers over them.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Do I make myself...clear?

The boys nod.

MIKE and DUSTIN (IN UNISON): Yes, sir.

LUCAS: Yeah.

FLASHBACK – EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – CASTLE BYERS – DAY

Joyce walks through the woods, approaching Castle Byers. She reaches the front, pressing the makeshift doorbell.

JOYCE: Ring-a-ding-ding! Anybody home?

WILL (O.S.): Password?

JOYCE: Uh, Rada...Radaga...Radagast?

WILL (O.S.): Yeah. You may enter.

FLASHBACK – INT. CASTLE BYERS – DAY

Joyce pulls back the sheet and walks inside. Will sits on the makeshift bed, reading a comic book.

JOYCE: Thank you, sir.

Joyce sits down on the makeshift bed opposite Will.

JOYCE (CONT'D): So, guess what? I got off early and...

Joyce reaches into her pocket and pulls out two cinema tickets.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Ta-da! 'Poltergeist'.

WILL: I...I thought I wasn't allowed to see it.

JOYCE: I changed my mind. As long as you don't have nightmares for a week.

WILL: No, I won't. I don't get scared like that anymore.

JOYCE: Oh, yeah? Not even of clowns?

WILL: No.

JOYCE: What about my witch?

Joyce closes one eyes and moves her pointer finger around.

WILL: No. Mum...

JOYCE: Ooh...

WILL: I'm not five anymore.

JOYCE: But Will Byers...

Joyce reaches forward and starts to tickle Will.

JOYCE (CONT'D): I'm going to cook you up in my-

WILL: Stop. That's so stupid. Mum!

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – CASTLE BYERS – DAY

Castle Byers is empty. Joyce stands in the doorway. She sighs, turning around to face the woods. Jonathan can be seen behind her.

JONATHAN: (shouting) Will? Will?

JOYCE: (shouting) Will?

JONATHAN: (shouting) Will?

Jonathan walks further into the woods, away from Castle Byers. Joyce follows.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): (shouting) Will?

JOYCE: (shouting) Will!

INT. CASTLE BYERS – DAY

The sheet flutters in the breeze. Joyce and Jonathan can be seen in the background.

JONATHAN: (shouting) Will!

JOYCE: (shouting) Will? Will! Where are you?

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – KITCHEN – DAY

Benny throws a patty onto the grill. He turns around to look at Eleven before looking back at the patty, flipping it over.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

Benny sits at a table, watching Eleven. She is hungrily scarfing down the burger he just made. She now wears an oversized yellow Benny's Burgers t-shirt.

BENNY: Geez. Your parents forget to feed you?

Eleven doesn't say anything, only eating the burger.

BENNY (CONT'D): Is that why you ran away?

Eleven doesn't say anything, only eating the burger.

BENNY (CONT'D): They, uh...they hurt you?

Eleven doesn't say anything, only eating the burger.

BENNY (CONT'D): You went to the hospital, you got scared, you ran away, you wound up here, is that it?

Eleven looks up at him but doesn't say anything. Benny reaches forward and takes the burger and basket away from her.

BENNY (CONT'D): All right. I'll give this back, all right? And you can have as much as you want. All right? Maybe even some ice cream. But you gotta answer a few of my questions first, all right?

Eleven doesn't say anything.

BENNY (CONT'D): We got a deal?

Eleven doesn't say anything.

BENNY (CONT'D): All right, let's start with the easy stuff. All right?

Benny holds out his hand.

BENNY (CONT'D): My name's Benny. Benny Hammond.

Benny reaches for Eleven's hand and pulls it towards his outstretched on.

BENNY (CONT'D): See? Like this. Here. I got you. Don't worry. It's okay.

Benny shakes Eleven's hand.

BENNY (CONT'D): Nice to meet you, yeah. And you are?

Eleven doesn't say anything. Benny sighs. He spots something on Eleven's wrist, turning it to see '011'. Eleven pulls her hand away. Benny sighs again, this time concerned. He looks at Eleven.

BENNY (CONT'D): Eleven? What's that mean?

Eleven doesn't say anything.

BENNY (CONT'D): What's it mean?

ELEVEN: No.

BENNY: Well, I'll be damned. She speaks. "No"? No, what?

Eleven doesn't say anything. Benny clicks his tongue.

BENNY (CONT'D): All right. I guess no more food, then.

Benny moves to leave the table and head back into the kitchen.

ELEVEN: Eleven.

Benny faces forward.

BENNY: Yeah. What's it mean?

Eleven points to herself.

ELEVEN: Eleven.

BENNY: All right, then.

Benny pushes the basket back towards Eleven. She hungrily starts eating again. Benny chuckles.

BENNY (CONT'D): Here you go. Take it easy, take it easy.

Benny sighs.

BENNY (CONT'D)(O.S.): Yeah, look, all I know is that she's scared to death.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – KITCHEN – DAY

Benny stands at the phone. He watches Eleven eat through the kitchen window.

BENNY (CONT'D): Yeah, I think maybe she's been abused, or...kidnapped or something.

The person on the other end of the phone talks. We can't make out what they're saying.

BENNY (CONT'D): Yeah, it'd be great if someone would come by. Yeah, we're at 4819 Randolph Lane. Yeah, Randolph.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – DAY

Eleven eats a basket of fries. The fan rattles. She looks up at it, staring intently. The rattling intensifies briefly before stopping completely, the fan turned off by an unknown power. Eleven goes back to eating her fries.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Hopper's truck races down a road.

CALLAHAN (O.S.): (shouting) Will Byers?

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Hopper walks down the road, looking around. Callahan and Powell can be seen a few metres behind him, doing the same. The truck and police car are parked on the road behind them.

POWELL: (shouting) Will!

CALLAHAN: (shouting) Will Byers?

Callahan hoots a few times. Hopper stops walking to take a Tuinal pill.

CALLAHAN (CONT'D): (shouting) Come on, kid!

POWELL: (shouting) Will?

Powell whistles. Hopper spots something in the bushes.

HOPPER: Hey! I got something.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Hopper runs down the hill into the woods. Callahan and Powell aren't far behind. They come across Will's abandoned bike, looking down at it. Hopper looks up into the woods.

CALLAHAN: That his bike?

HOPPER: Yeah, he must have crashed.

CALLAHAN: You think he got hurt in the fall?

HOPPER: Not so hurt he couldn't walk away. Bike like this is like a Cadillac to these kids. He would've walked it home.

Hopper reaches down and picks the bike up, looking around.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – RADIO ROOM – DAY

Agents sit with headphones on, listening in on conversations. The camera pans behind them.

WOMAN 1 (THROUGH HEADPHONES): ...get off work if I win.

WOMAN 2 (THROUGH HEADPHONES): Oh, Friday I'm supposed to...

WOMAN 3 (THROUGH HEADPHONES): ...but we will cover whatever the damages are to your property. It's just, um...

WOMAN 4 (THROUGH HEADPHONES): Oh, that's for sure.

Conversations overlap. Agents write down notes. We slowly zoom in on one agent.

JOYCE (THROUGH HEADPHONES): Is Lonnie there?

CYNTHIA (THROUGH HEADPHONES): Lonnie isn't here right now.

JOYCE (THROUGH HEADPHONES): Can you please-

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Joyce is on the phone. Jonathan can be seen on the lounge room couch in the background.

CYNTHIA (ON PHONE): I told you, Lonnie's not here.

JOYCE: Who is this?

CYNTHIA (ON PHONE): His girlfriend, Cynthia.

JOYCE: Cynthia.

CYNTHIA (ON PHONE): Who the hell is this?

JOYCE: Cynthia, this is Joyce.

CYNTHIA (ON PHONE): Who?

JOYCE: Lonnie's ex-wife.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Jonathan draws up a missing persons poster.

JOYCE (CONT'D)(O.S.): I really need to speak to him-

CYNTHIA (ON PHONE): Lonnie's not here.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

JOYCE: Can you please put-

CYNTHIA (ON PHONE): Why don't you call back later?

JOYCE: No! No, not later. Now! Can-

Cynthia hangs up the phone. Joyce slams the phone back onto the wall, angry.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Bitch!

JONATHAN: Mum.

JOYCE: What?

JONATHAN: You have to stay calm.

Joyce picks up the phone again, dialling Lonnie's number again. She mutters to herself. The phone line rings.

LONNIE (ANSWERING MACHINE): Hey, you've reached Lonnie. Leave a message and I'll holler right back at ya.

JOYCE: Lonnie, some teenager just hung up on me. Will is...is missing. I don't know where he is. I need...I just need you to call me back, please, just-

The answering machine beeps. The call disconnects. Joyce slams the phone back onto the wall.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Damn it! Damn it!

Jonathan looks up as a car approaches.

JONATHAN: Mum?

JOYCE: What?

Jonathan stands up.

JONATHAN: Cops.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Joyce opens the door and walks out, followed by Jonathan. They stop short on the porch. Hopper's truck is parked. The police car is pulling up. Hopper pulls Will's bike from out of the boot and starts to walk towards the house. He stops when he sees Joyce and Jonathan on the porch.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Callahan, Hopper, and Powell stand in front of the door. Joyce and Jonathan stand in front of them.

JOYCE: It was just lying there?

HOPPER: Yeah. Cal?

Hopper points into the dining room. Powell moves to walk into the room.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Hopper walks into the kitchen.

JOYCE: Did it have any blood on it, or-

HOPPER: No, no, no, no...Phil?

JONATHAN: If you found the bike out there, why are you here?

HOPPER: Well, he had a key to the house, right?

JONATHAN: Yeah.

HOPPER: So...maybe he came home.

JOYCE: You think I didn't check my own house?

Hopper walks over to the back door, spotting a hole in the wall.

HOPPER: I'm not saying that.

Hopper touches the hole.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Has this always been here?

JOYCE: What? I don't know. Probably. I mean, I have two boys. Look at this place.

Hopper pulls the door open, slowly putting it against the hole. The handle and the hole line up.

HOPPER: You're not sure?

Joyce sighs. They hear the sound of dog barking outside.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – BACK YARD – DAY

Chester is barking at the shed. Hopper opens the back porch door and walks down the stairs before walking over to Chester. Joyce and Jonathan follow behind.

HOPPER: Hey.

Chester turns around as Hopper approaches. Hopper bends down, petting him.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey, what's up with this guy, huh?

Joyce grabs Chester's collar and starts to walk him towards the stairs.

JOYCE: Nothing, he's probably just hungry. Come on.

Hopper watches Joyce and Chester leave before turning his attention to the shed. He stands up, walking over to it.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – SHED – DAY

Hopper opens the door and walks inside, turning the light on after closing the door behind him. He spots the pile of bullets on the bench, walking over and picking up the empty box. He looks up and notices that the rifle is missing from the wall, touching the hook it rests on. The light flickers. He looks at it. The light goes out. Hopper turns around. Dim light streaming through the back window lands on a pile of wood, a cardboard box and a doona. He grabs a torch and turns it on, shining it on the pile. Hopper walks over and crouches in front of the pile. He slowly starts to stand up. The light flickers back on.

CALLAHAN (O.S.): Hey!

Hopper jumps up, startled.

HOPPER: Jesus!

Callahan has joined Hopper in the shed.

CALLAHAN: What are you, deaf? I've been calling you.

Hopper looks back at the pile. He takes a deep breath.

CALLAHAN (CONT'D): What's going on?

Hopper doesn't say anything, instead walking past Callahan to exit the shed.

CALLAHAN (CONT'D): Hello?

Hopper exits the shed and starts to walk towards the house. Callahan follows behind him.

CALLAHAN (CONT'D): Are you sure you're okay, Chief?

HOPPER: Listen, I want you to call Flo. I want to get a search party together, all right?

Powell approaches Hopper and Callahan. Hopper hands the flashlight to Callahan.

HOPPER (CONT'D): All the volunteers she can muster. Bring flashlights, too.

Callahan: Hey, you think we got a problem here?

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

MIKE (O.S.): We should be out there right now. We should be helping look for him.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – DINING ROOM – NIGHT

The family sits at the dining table, eating dinner.

KAREN: We've been over this, Mike. The chief says-

MIKE: I don't care what the chief says!

KAREN: Michael!

MIKE: We have to do something. Will can be in danger.

KAREN: More reason to stay put.

MIKE: Mum!

KAREN: End of discussion.

Karen looks at each family member in turn. They all choose not to say anything. Karen goes back to her food.

NANCY: So...me and Barbara are gonna study at her house tonight. That's cool, right?

KAREN: No, not cool.

NANCY: What? Why not?

KAREN: Why do you think? Am I speaking Chinese in this house? Until we know Will is okay, no one leaves.

NANCY: This is such bullshit.

TED: Language.

NANCY: So we're under house arrest? Just because Mike's friend got lost on the way home from-

MIKE: Wait, this is Will's fault?

KAREN: Nancy, take that back.

NANCY: No!

MIKE: You're just pissed off cause you wanna hang out with Steve.

Nancy glares daggers at Mike. Mike looks a little scared of what he just revealed.

TED: Steve?

KAREN: Who is Steve?

MIKE: Her new boyfriend.

NANCY: You're such a douchebag, Mike!

TED: Language!

Nancy groans and stands up, storming towards the stairs.

KAREN: Nancy, come back.

Nancy keeps walking.

KAREN (CONT'D): Come back!

Holly looks at Karen. She looks confused and a little scared. Karen sighs, smiling at Holly.

KAREN (CONT'D): (softly) It's okay. It's okay, Holly. Here, have some juice, okay?

Ted looks from Holly to Mike.

TED: You see, Michael? You see what happens?

MIKE: (loudly) What happens when what? I'm the only one acting normal here! I'm the only one that cares about Will!

TED: That is really unfair, son. We care.

Mike slams the table, standing up and walking towards the stairs.

KAREN: Mike.

TED: Let him go.

Karen turns to Ted with an annoyed look on her face. Ted is clueless, eating his chicken.

KAREN: I hope you're enjoying your chicken, Ted.

TED: What did I do?

Karen stands up, lifting Holly out of her high chair. Karen starts to walk away.

TED (CONT'D): Hey! What'd I do?

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – NIGHT

Flashlights are seen speckled all around, belonging to volunteers.

BOY: Will!

MAN 1: Will Byers!

MAN 2: Will!

WOMAN: Will, we're here for you, bud!

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – NIGHT

Hopper leads the pack. Mr. Clarke follows on his right, slightly behind. Callahan follows on his left, slightly behind. Powell follows behind Callahan.

MR. CLARKE: He's a good student.

HOPPER: What?

MR. CLARKE: Will. He's a good student. Great one, actually. I don't think we've met.

Mr. Clarke holds out his hand. Hopper shakes it.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D): Scott Clarke. Teacher, Hawkins Middle. Earth and biology.

HOPPER: I always had a distaste for science.

MR. CLARKE: Well, maybe you had a bad teacher.

HOPPER: Yeah, Ms Ratliff was a piece of work.

MR. CLARKE: Ratliff? You bet. She's still kicking around, believe it or not.

HOPPER: Oh, I believe it. Mummies never die, so they tell me. Sara, my daughter...galaxies, the universe, whatnot...she always understood all that stuff. I always figured there was enough going on down here, I never needed to look elsewhere.

MR. CLARKE: Your daughter, what grade is she? Maybe I'll get her in my class.

HOPPER: No, she, uh...she lives with her Mum in the city. Thanks for coming out, Teach. We really appreciate it.

Hopper starts to walk quicker, leaving Mr. Clarke behind. The Hawkins High principal starts walking next to Mr. Clarke.

HAWKINS HIGH PRINCIPAL: She died a few years back.

MR. CLARKE: Sorry?

HAWKINS HIGH PRINCIPAL: His kid.

Mr. Clarke looks ahead at Hopper, who is now walking by himself.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Mike sits at a table, D&D board still setup from the night before. He holds his Supercomm to his ear.

MIKE: Lucas, do you copy? It's Mike.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – LUCAS' BEDROOM – NIGHT

Lucas sits on the edge of his bed. He extends the Supercomm's antenna.

MIKE (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Lucas?

LUCAS: Hey, it's Lucas.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

MIKE: I know it's you. And say "over" when you're done talking so I know when you're done. Over.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – LUCAS' BEDROOM – NIGHT

LUCAS: I'm done. Over.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

MIKE: I'm worried about Will. Over.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – LUCAS' BEDROOM – NIGHT

Lucas sighs.

LUCAS: Yeah.

Lucas rolls over and lies on his bed.

LUCAS (CONT'D): This is crazy. Over.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

MIKE: I was thinking...Will could've cast Protection last night, but he didn't. He cast Fireball.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – LUCAS' BEDROOM – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Over.

LUCAS: What's your point? Over.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

MIKE: My point is...he could've played it safe, but he didn't. He put himself in danger to help the party.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE – LUCAS' BEDROOM – NIGHT

MIKE (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Over.

Lucas thinks over Mike's words.

LUCAS: Meet me in ten. Over and out.

Lucas de-extends the Supercomm's antenna.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Mike de-extends the Supercomm's antenna. He shoves his Supercomm into his bag, along with a torch.

EXT. WHEELER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Mike rides his bike out of the Wheeler driveway. He pauses, looking back at the house. We see Steve standing on top of a block, trying to climb onto the roof underneath Nancy's window. He notices Mike watching and stops, pretending that he's not doing anything suspicious. Mike rolls his eyes and walks away. Steve goes back to trying to climb up to Nancy's room.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – NANCY’S ROOM – NIGHT

She sits at her desk, going through flash cards. We see Steve appear in the window. He taps on it, getting Nancy’s attention. She looks over, her eyes widening when she sees him. She puts the flash cards down, walking over to her window and opening it.

NANCY: What are you doing here? I told you on the phone, I’m under house arrest now.

STEVE: I figured we’d just study here.

NANCY: No. No way.

Steve starts to climb through the window.

STEVE: Oh, come on. I can’t have you failing this test. So just...bear with me.

Steve awkwardly makes his way inside, standing up. Nancy stares at him.

STEVE (CONT’D): What’d I tell you? Ninja.

Nancy scoffs and closes her window.

INT. BENNY’S BURGERS – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Eleven sits on the bench, eating ice cream. Benny washes up dishes, looking over at her every so often. Benny stops washing the dishes, turning to face her.

BENNY: You like that ice cream, huh?

Eleven smiles.

BENNY (CONT’D): Smile looks good on you.

Eleven looks a little confused.

BENNY (CONT’D): You know, smile?

Benny smiles. Eleven copies him. Benny chuckles, turning to continue washing the dishes. A knock on the front door makes both Benny and Eleven look in its direction. Eleven immediately looks nervous, looking back at Benny with a scared expression.

BENNY (CONT’D): All right. You just sit tight. Whoever it is, I’ll just tell them to go away real quick, all right?

Benny walks in the direction of the front door. Eleven watches him, nervous. The knocking continues.

BENNY (CONT’D): Yeah, yeah, yeah...

INT. BENNY’S BURGERS – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Benny opens the front door. A blonde woman stands on the other side.

BENNY (CONT’D): Hey, can I help you?

CONNIE: Hi, you must be Benny Hammond.

BENNY: I’m afraid I am. I’m afraid we’re closed for the evening, too. So try back tomorrow morning.

CONNIE: Connie Frazier. Social services.

BENNY: Ah, Social Services. My apologies. I didn't expect you so soon. That's a heck of a drive.

CONNIE: Not too bad this time of night.

Benny looks in the direction of the kitchen.

BENNY: Hey, listen, I...I haven't told her that you're coming yet.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Eleven watches the conversation from afar.

BENNY (CONT'D)(O.S.): I didn't want her running off again. She's a tad skittish.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – NIGHT

CONNIE: Children I work with usually are.

BENNY: Right, right.

CONNIE: So, where is she?

BENNY: Right. She's in the kitchen.

Benny turns to lead Connie into the kitchen.

BENNY (CONT'D): Come on up. I'll introduce you.

CONNIE: Thank you.

BENNY: Sorry again for trying to turn you away there.

Connie starts to reach into her bag as Benny leads her towards the kitchen.

CONNIE: It's fine.

BENNY: You know, it's funny.

Benny starts to turn around to look at Connie.

BENNY (CONT'D): Your, uh, your voice sounds different on the-

Connie holds a gun. She shoots Benny, the shot silenced. In the kitchen, Eleven jumps at the noise. She sees Benny go down and Connie holding up the gun. She gasps in horror, jumping off the bench and running for the back door. As she round the corner into the back room, two agents walk through the door, holding guns.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – EATING AREA – NIGHT

Brenner walks in, looking down at the now dead Benny. A loud thud and groans from the back room makes Brenner and the other agents look in that direction.

INT. BENNY'S BURGERS – STORAGE ROOM – NIGHT

Brenner walks in, finding the two agents lying on the floor. The back door is wide open. He exits the back door, looking around for Eleven, but she is long gone.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – NIGHT

Mike, Lucas, and Dustin bike down a road.

LUCAS: Ah, man. This is it.

The boys approach a sectioned off part of the woods. Mirkwood. They park their bikes, hopping off and grabbing their flashlights. Thunder rumbles. Lightning flashes overhead. Dustin looks up, holding his hand up.

DUSTIN: Hey, guys. You feel that?

A raindrop lands on Dustin's face. He wipes it away, looking at the woods.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I think maybe we should turn back.

MIKE: No. We're not going back. Just stay close. Come on.

Mike starts to head into the woods, lifting the tape up and over his head. Lucas follows him.

MIKE (CONT'D): Just stay on channel six. Don't do anything stupid.

Dustin watches Mike and Lucas walk into the woods. Thunder rumbles.

DUSTIN: Hey, guys, wait up.

Dustin starts to follow Mike and Lucas.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Wait up!

Dustin runs up to Mike and Lucas. It starts to rain as they walk further into the woods.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – NANCY'S ROOM – NIGHT

Steve holds a pile of flash cards.

STEVE: "Which polymers occur naturally?"

NANCY: Starch and cellulose.

Steve flips the flash card to see the answer before going to the next one.

STEVE: Mmm. "In a molecule of CH₄, the hydrogen atoms are spatially oriented towards the centres of--"

NANCY: Tetrahedrons.

Steve flips the flash card to see the answer before going to the next one.

STEVE: Wow. Jesus, how many of these did you make?

NANCY: You said you wanted to help.

STEVE: How about this? How about...how about every time that you get something right, I have to take off an item of clothing. But every time that you get something wrong-

NANCY: Uh, pass.

STEVE: Oh, come on.

Steve adjusts on the bed and gets closer to Nancy.

STEVE (CONT'D): Come on.

NANCY: No.

STEVE: Come on. It'll be fun.

NANCY: No.

STEVE: "During fractional distillation, hydrocarbons are separated according to their-"

NANCY: Melting point.

Steve flips the flash card to see the answer. His eyebrows raise and he looks at Nancy.

STEVE: Ooh, it's boiling points.

NANCY: That's what I meant.

STEVE: Yeah, that's not what you said.

Steve grabs at the collar of his shirt, looking at Nancy's shirt.

NANCY: No.

STEVE: No?

Steve sits up and moves closer to Nancy.

STEVE (CONT'D): Oh, do you need...do you need help, or...

NANCY: No.

The pair kiss. Steve pushes Nancy to lie on the bed, the pair making out. Steve starts to unbutton Nancy's shirt. She pushes him away slightly.

NANCY: (whispers) Steve. Steve, come on.

STEVE: What?

NANCY: Are you crazy? My parents are here.

Steve turns, looking around the room.

STEVE: That's weird, I...don't see them.

Steve turns back to Nancy and starts kissing her again. Nancy pushes him off, sitting up. She looks at him in disbelief and anger.

NANCY: Was this your plan all along? To...to get in my room and then...get another notch on your belt?

STEVE: No. Nancy, no.

NANCY: I'm not Laurie, or Amy, or Becky.

STEVE: You mean, you're not a slut.

NANCY: That's not what I'm saying.

STEVE: You know, you're so cute when you lie.

NANCY: Shut up.

Steve grabs Nancy's teddy bear and holds it up, pouting.

STEVE: Bad Steve. Bad. Don't do that to Miss Nancy...

NANCY: You're an idiot, Steve Harrington.

STEVE: You are beautiful, Nancy Wheeler.

Steve sits up, grabbing the pile of flash cards.

STEVE (CONT'D): "Compared to the rate of inorganic reactions, the rate of organic reactions is generally..."

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Joyce and Jonathan sift through photos on the coffee table.

JOYCE: Jonathan, wow. You took these? These are great. Wow, they really are.

Joyce sniffles.

JOYCE (CONT'D): I know I haven't been there for you. I've been...working so hard and I...I just feel bad. I don't even...barely know what's going on with you. All right? I am sorry about that.

Jonathan sobs softly. He looks like he's trying to hold it back.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Hey, what is it? What is it, honey?

Jonathan shrugs.

JONATHAN: Nothing.

Jonathan sniffles.

JOYCE: Tell me. Tell me.

Jonathan shakes his head.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Come on. You can...

JONATHAN: No. It's just...I should've been there for him.

JOYCE: No. Oh, no. You can't do that to yourself. This was not your fault. Do you hear me? He is...close. I know it. I...I feel it in my heart. You just have to...you have to trust me on this, okay?

JONATHAN: Yeah.

The two sniffle. Joyce squeezes Jonathan's shoulder. She reaches for something on the table.

JOYCE: Oh, look at this. Look at this one.

Joyce holds up a photo of Will. He wears an orange sweater.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Look at this one.

The two laugh through their tears.

JOYCE (CONT'D): I mean, that's it, right?

JONATHAN: Yeah.

Jonathan rests his head on Joyce's shoulder.

JOYCE: That's it. That's the one.

The phone rings.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (HAWKINS) – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Joyce gets up and runs over to the phone, picking it up.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Hello?

There's no answer, only static.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Hello?

More static.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Lonnie?

Jonathan looks up from the couch.

JONATHAN: Dad?

JOYCE: Hopper?

There is muffled breathing on the other end of the phone.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Who is this?

The muffled breathing continues. Jonathan gets up from the couch and walks over. Joyce turns to face him, looking confused.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Will? Will?

JONATHAN: It's Will?

A weird noise chimes on the other end of the phone. The static crackles. Joyce sobs.

JONATHAN: Mum, it's Will?

JOYCE: Who is this?

Growling can be heard on the other end of the phone.

JOYCE (CONT'D): What have you done to my boy?

JONATHAN: What? What?

JOYCE: Give me back my son!

The electricity surges, sending a jolt through the phone. Joyce drops it in shock, screaming. The phone drops to the ground. Jonathan pulls it up by the wire and puts it to his ear.

JONATHAN: Hello? Hello, who is this?

Jonathan whacks the phone a few times. Joyce sobs.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Hello? Who is this?

Jonathan puts the phone on the wall and turns to face Joyce. She's muttering incoherently.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Mum, who was it? Who was it, Mum?

JOYCE: (sobbing) It was him.

Jonathan grabs Joyce's shoulders.

JONATHAN: Look at me, Mum. Was it Will?

JOYCE: Yes.

JONATHAN: What did he say?

JOYCE: He just breathed. He just breathed.

JONATHAN: And was someone else there?

JOYCE: I...

Joyce picks the phone up, hitting the wall a few times, before she pulls Jonathan in for a hug.

JONATHAN: Mum, who was there? Who was it?

JOYCE: It was him. I know it was his breathing. I know it was his breathing.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – NIGHT

Mike, Lucas, and Dustin walk through. The rain pours.

MIKE: Will! Will!

LUCAS: Byers!

DUSTIN: I've got your X-Men 134!

The boys are soaked through.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Guys, I really think we should turn back.

LUCAS: Seriously, Dustin? You wanna be a baby, then go home already!

DUSTIN: I'm just being realistic, Lucas!

LUCAS: No, you're just being a big sissy!

DUSTIN: Did you ever think Will went missing because he ran into something bad? And we're going to the exact same spot where he was last seen? And we have no weapons or anything?

MIKE: Dustin, shut up.

DUSTIN: I'm just saying, does that seem smart to you?

MIKE: Shut up. Shut up.

Rustling can be heard in the bushes.

MIKE (CONT'D): Do you guys hear that?

The rustling continues. The boys jump to face it. They hear rustling again, this time in the opposite direction. The boys jump to face it. Their flashlights land on Eleven. She's soaked through. She looks scared.

Cut to black.

END EPISODE.

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